

Bringing greater freedom to nations in the Middle East is the work of generations, and the advance of liberty still faces determined enemies. The terrorists know the stakes in the struggle. They know that as more people in the region embrace freedom, they will lose their safe havens, lose their recruits, and lose the sources of funding they need to advance their hateful ideology. And so they'll continue to fight freedom's progress with all the murderous hatred they can muster. They will continue to create images of violence and suffering for the cameras. The terrorists know that the only way they can defeat us is to break our will and force our retreat. And that's not going to happen so long as I'm the President of the United States.

We will stay on the offense. We will continue to hunt down the terrorists wherever they hide. We'll continue to stand with the people of the Middle East as they step forward to claim their freedom. We can be confident in our cause because we have seen freedom conquer tyranny and secure the peace before. We've seen freedom arrive on waves of unstoppable progress to nations in Latin America and Asia and Africa and Eastern Europe. And now the hope of freedom is stirring in the Middle East, and no one should bet against it.

We can also have confidence in our cause—we have the greatest force for freedom in the history of the world on our side, the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. They are serving with courage and distinction on many fronts in the war on terror. And I know America's veterans feel a special bond with them as they defend freedom in foreign lands.

In this war, we've lost some really good men and women who left our shores to defend liberty and did not live to make the journey home. Others have returned from war with wounds the best medicine cannot heal. As veterans, you've lost friends and comrades in the field of battle, and you understand the sadness that has come to some of our Nation's military families. We pray for the families of the fallen, and we honor the memory of all who have given their lives in freedom's cause. And we will honor that memory by defeating the terrorists and spreading liberty

and laying the foundation of peace for generations to come.

I appreciate the Legion's support for our troops in the fight. I appreciate the example you have set for those who wear the uniform today.

Before Veterans Day a few years ago, a group of soldiers serving in Iraq sent a letter to the American Legion Headquarters here in Washington. They wrote, "Veterans of past wars will forever be in our hearts as American heroes. Their sacrifices give us courage, and their devotion reminds us of what we are fighting for." Our men and women on the frontlines are taking inspiration from the valor and courage that you've shown on the field of battle. When they face dark moments in the thick of the fight, they remember that you faced enemies as brutal and determined as those who threaten America today, and they remember how you prevailed. And now they're picking up your mantle and carrying on your fight. And like our veterans, they're bringing security to our citizens and freedom to the world.

Thank you for your idealism. I thank you for your dedication to God and country. May God bless our veterans. May God bless our troops in uniform, and may God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10 a.m. at the Capital Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Tom Bock, national commander, American Legion; Paul Hasz, commander, American Legion, District of Columbia; John Sommer, executive director, American Legion; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; and Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 18

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

February 20

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines to offer condolences for the loss of life during massive mudslides in St. Bernard and to pledge continued U.S. disaster relief assistance. Later, he had a telephone conversation with President Vicente Fox of Mexico to discuss border security, immigration reform, and other issues. He then had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Milwaukee, WI, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Beverly Christy-Wright. He then toured the Johnson Controls Battery Technology Center.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Macomb County, MI, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Brian Willingham. He then traveled to Auburn Hills, MI, where, at United Solar Ovonic, he participated in a briefing on alternative energy sources. Later, he traveled to Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora, CO, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Delmar "Pete" Beverly before traveling to Englewood, CO.

February 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Golden, CO, where he participated in a tour of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to attend the closing ceremonies of the 2006 Olympic Games in Turin, Italy: Rudolph W. Giuliani (head of delegation); Ronald P. Spogli; Mario Andretti; Lawrence E. Auriana; and A. Kenneth Ciongoli.

February 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a photo opportunity with crew members of the Space Shuttle *Discovery* and their families.

In the evening, in the Family Theater, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a screening of "Glory Road" followed by a dinner.

The White House announced that the President will host Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy at the White House on February 28.

February 23

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation with President-elect Rene Preval of Haiti to congratulate him on his election victory. He then traveled to Mishawaka, IN, where, at Bethel College Indiana, he met with a soldier wounded in Iraq.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Cincinnati, OH.

In the evening, at a private residence, the President attended a Mike DeWine for U.S. Senate reception. He then returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate John G. Emling to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The President announced his intention to appoint William M. Murphy as a member of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint Gail A. Jaquish, A.J. Scribante, and Jackie Winters as members of the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

The President announced his intention to appoint Antonio Falcon, Bruce D. San Filippo, and Cecilia Rosales as members of the U.S. Section of the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission.

February 24

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing followed by a National Security Council meeting on Iraq. Later, he participated in interviews with television journalists from India and Pakistan.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with President Elias Antonio Saca Gonzalez of El Salvador.

The White House announced that the President will host Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda of Slovakia at the White House on March 13.

The President declared an emergency in Maine and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by record snow from December 25–27, 2005.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released February 18

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 4745

Released February 20

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released February 22

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy

Fact sheet: The United States-UAE Bilateral Relationship

Fact sheet: The CFIUS Process and the DP World Transaction

Released February 23

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino

Transcript of a press briefing by Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Frances Fragos Townsend

Fact sheet: The Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina: Lessons Learned

Released February 24

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley on the President's Visit to India and Pakistan

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda of the Slovak Republic

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Maine

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved February 18

H.R. 4745 / Public Law 109–174

Making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for the Small Business Administration's disaster loans program, and for other purposes